

Remarks

The Official Office Action of September 10, 2003, and the references therein cited have been carefully considered. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 20-28 and has rejected claims 17-19.

Claim 17 was rejected as fully met by Nienstedt which discloses a canal liner having sections which are connected together along a seam 32. As shown best in Figure 8 of Nienstedt, the canal liner is held in place by stakes 42 which have an enlarged head on one side of the liner and a spike extending through the liner into the earth below the liner. Claim 17 has been amended to recite that the fasteners securing the canal liner to the canal wall are wholly on the first side of the liner which faces the canal wall. This is manifestly not true with Nienstedt and the rejection can accordingly no longer be sustained.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 17 and should accordingly be allowable for the same reasons that claim 17 is allowable. In addition, claims 18 and 19 recite that the canal includes an upwardly concave section where the fasteners extend into the upwardly concave section. In Nienstedt, the stakes 42 are located outside the upwardly concave canal section. It is accordingly submitted that claims 18 and 19 are likewise allowable.

It is accordingly submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and early steps toward that end are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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